

Newsletter

The Rural Beat

South Worcestershire Police

Rural and Business Crime Team



John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

Summer 2021

The Rural Beat is a new publication from the Police in South Worcestershire for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit South Worcestershire. The aim is to provide information, advice and contact details to assist the community. We will welcome your feedback.

Coronavirus (Covid-19): We're asking you please to only call 999 if it is an emergency and 101 if it is urgent. If you can, use our [online services](#). Please use this service to inform us if you feel there is a significant issue or serious breach of the 'stay at home' restrictions.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [NHS advice about coronavirus External Link](#)
- [Stay at home measures and other guidance on Gov.uk](#)

For those reading this electronically hover over the bullet points above and PRES CTRL +CLICK otherwise log onto <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> for further information

URGENT ALERT



We have received several reports of trailers being stolen. Please be aware if you own/use a trailer remember to secure it at all times.

If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.



CRIME PREVENTION

TRAILER THEFT

Where possible park the trailer where it cannot be seen from the road Public rights of way and when you come onto the yard. Ensure there is good lighting and the area is secure with gates and locks.

When not in use, park or place something in front of the trailer so it cannot be moved.

Secure the trailer with a chain or steel cable to a strong anchor point. Consider a cable alarm where an alarm will go off if the cable is cut. Use a wheel lock and/or hitch lock.

Consider a beam alarm for the area where the trailer is stored and CCTV. Record all relevant numbers, e.g. chassis, body, hitch numbers etc. (a form is available to print off or download on this website.

Make the trailer unique to you so it stands out, this can be done by putting the farm/stable name on the side or using a motif or logo. This will act as a deterrent and make it easily identifiable.

You could put your vehicle registration on the roof of your vehicle, this can be done by oil based paint or there are kits you can buy with vinyl lettering.

Consider marking the trailer with a solution such as Smartwater or other Forensic marking solution or have the windows glass etched and put stickers on the vehicle warning it is security marked. <https://www.smartwater.com/>
<https://www.cesarscheme.org/>

Take photographs of the vehicle from all angles, include close ups of any unique markings such as scratches, dents, scuffs and any security markings and keep them in a safe place to give to the police to help them identify the vehicle if it is stolen.

Consider fitting a tracker that will notify you if the trailer is moved and allow you to track it and pass the information to the police.

For further advice on Crime Prevention please contact us on the below link and scrolling down for the '**Crime Prevention**' information box

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>



Recent issues

Sheep worrying



There have been increasing incidents of Sheep worrying particularly in the Malvern Hills
Please keep your dog under control

There are offences that involve sheep being 'worried' as well as attacked

Farm Building Burglary



We are seeing an increase in Farm Buildings being broken into and machinery and tools stolen
Please be vigilant and keep these building secure

A simple battery PIR alarm can deter would be thieves

PLEASE CONTACT US TO ARRANGE A FREE SECURITY SURVEY ON YOUR FARM BUILDINGS



If you have any information please contact the Rural and Business Crime Team



We Don't Buy Crime is West Mercia Police's response to acquisitive crime – crimes such as burglary and theft – and the associated harm it causes. These crimes can have a long lasting impact on victims, it can often leave someone feeling unsafe in their own home, and where possessions that have emotional attachment are stolen it can be heart-breaking.

We Don't Buy Crime has five key strands along with our **towns and villages**, we work with **second hand stores** and **fuel stations**, **deploy covert tactics**, and more recently look at ways our local communities can help tackle associated harm including **criminal exploitation and vulnerability**.

We currently have over 20 Towns & Villages signed up to the We Don't Buy crime Smart Water scheme in South Worcestershire and we are currently looking to sign up more!

Please encourage your local Town or Parish Council to contact us to arrange a meeting (Covid 19 Secure) so we can explain how the process could work

Calling All Farmers



Following our requests for farmers to provide a facility for us to talk to groups of farmers about security we met up at **Applevale Farm in Bretforton** last week together with **NFU** and our friends from Tallis Amos Group Ltd who were there to outline the **Cesar** marking system <https://www.tallisamosgroup.co.uk/> This is a system to mark farm vehicles to enable them to be positively identified if stolen

We would welcome the opportunity to visit other such areas in the South Worcestershire area.

Please contact us to arrange

Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team

Pc Nigel Bolton, Pc Ben Trowman and Mick Simpson work across South Worcestershire, as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team and are supported by Special Constables, police volunteers and members of the public.

If you would like to help with reducing crime in your area, contact Mick Simpson on

michael.simpson@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or call 07773050803



So, what are we up to?

Marking Horse Tack at Lincomb Equestrian
Please contact us to arrange a similar visit



DOG TASTIC



The team attended **Dogtastic** at the Three Counties Showground and spoke to lots of dog owners about dog thefts and crime prevention advice

Bike marking in the Crowngate shopping centre in Worcester in the new purpose made inside secure bike storage area



STOP PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sign up for our brand new community messaging service.

www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



**Neighbourhood Matters is the new West Mercia Police community messaging service
Sign-up NOW**

[Home Page - Neighbourhood Matters](#)



Dementia Information

Kirsty Hughes is the new Dementia Meeting Centre Manager for Age UK Worcester and Malvern Link. Please follow the below link to find out how she can help people in our community.



[all_dementia_meeting_centres_flyer_v1.](#)

Each edition will feature a crime that occurs in our Community with Crime Prevention advice **Dog Theft**

We understand the impact that the theft of a dog can have on owners and Communities and there has been considerable amount of discussion on most social media sites. In South Worcestershire we have received few reports of such thefts but acknowledge that even one is one too many!

I have detailed below some advice designed to reduce the chances of these types of theft occurring.

Please also take care when buying puppies and dogs, there is some advice detailed below from the RSPCA that might assist?



Dog Theft Advice Steps you can take to reduce the chance of your dog being stolen.

Registering and identifying your dog

- Make sure your dog is microchipped and the details are correct on any of the recognised pet registration databases. Your dog must be microchipped by the time it is eight weeks old.
- Fit your dog with a collar; the tag on the collar should have a contact number and your surname, **not the name of the dog**.
- Make sure you take pictures of your dog from various angles, especially if they have distinctive markings or features. A further photo of you with your dog can help to prove ownership. Taking photos of your dog in various conditions can also help, such as with a groomed coat or an untidy one.

At home

- Pets can be stolen from a garden or yard when left unattended, even for just a few minutes. Front gardens can also be very vulnerable.
- Fit a bell or gate alarm to any rear or side gates; the gates should be secured with British Standard locks, locking bolts or closed shackle padlocks.
- The garden boundary should be secure to prevent your dog from escaping or a thief from taking your dog.
- Any outside kennels can also have a bell or small alarm fitted to warn you of any tampering; they should also have locks fitted.
- Consider driveway alarms to alert you of visitors or use monitored CCTV/Alarm systems to areas around any outside kennels. These will alert you if anyone is close by. Simple I.P. cameras are relatively inexpensive and can alert your Smart phone

When out and about

- Never leave your dog unattended in a car – especially on warm days – as it is dangerous for their health but allows them to be easily targeted by thieves.
- Leaving your dog alone outside a shop is another easy opportunity for a thief, even if you are only away for a minute.
- It's advisable for your dog to return when called; if it is not trained to do this, be very careful of allowing them off the lead, especially in unfamiliar areas. You may wish to keep them on an extending lead instead.
- Varying the times and routes you take when walking your dog will help to prevent your dog from being targeted.

RSPCA Tips for spotting puppy dealers online advert

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/puppy>

Dealers are using the internet to their advantage when it comes to advertising and selling farmed puppies.

If you're looking to buy a puppy make sure you read adverts carefully and look out for the tell-tale signs:

- *Dealers may use the same contact number on more than one advert. Try Googling the number to see if it has been used on any other puppy adverts.*
- *Descriptions may have been copied and pasted and used on more than one advert - try Googling the description and see if it has been used before, word-for-word.*
- *Photos of the puppies may have been used on other adverts. Right click on the photo, select 'search Google for image' and see if it has been used on other ads.*
- *If the advert says a puppy has been vaccinated - check how old he or she is. A puppy cannot be vaccinated before four - six weeks of age. So, if a person is advertising a three-week-old vaccinated puppy, they are lying.*
- *If the puppy is advertised as having a passport, it has most probably been imported.*
- *We have seen dealers claim they are Kennel Club Registered to convey legitimacy - but be wary of this, ask for original documents and check with the kennel club before buying a puppy*



West Mercia Police now use microchip scanners to identify animals

Online Criminality

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email: report@phishing.gov.uk

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. One of the many scam emails currently in circulation purports to be from the TV Licensing advising to cancel direct debits. These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you are sent to a website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

For further information and advice please go to:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-ncsc/what-is-cyber-security>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>

Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Cyber Aware

A little bit of information goes a long way

Report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is.

Also, REPORT CRIME! We know not all crime is reported to us, and we know the many reasons for that including frustration.

If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.